

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY TO THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MARCH 2, 2012

IN OPPOSITION TO

HOUSE BILL No. 5118 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF TRASH-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES AS CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

H.B. 5118 would reclassify electricity generated by waste-to-energy facilities as a Class 1 renewable source.

Although we are sympathetic to the concerns that lower electricity prices would increase tip fees for local governments, this legislation would be premature.

Governor Malloy recently announced establishment of a Modernizing Recycling Working Group to conduct a comprehensive study of Connecticut's recycling systems and waste disposal, including:

- modernizing the state's recycling and materials management policies, including organic composting, recycling streams and methods, possible market frameworks and education;
- the governance, responsibilities and operations of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority to ensure the state has the proper mechanisms for reducing waste, maximizing recycling and minimizing reliance on burning as a disposal method; and
- ensuring that Connecticut has a comprehensive plan for solid waste disposal and materials management that considers environmental impacts on host communities and the state as a whole.

We understand the concerns about the long-term economic viability of the Mid-Connecticut facility and that some believe this change is necessary for that. But CRRA has already adopted a budget for Mid-Connecticut for FY 13 without assuming Class 1 status. The decision does not need to be made ahead of the comprehensive study to be done by the Governor's Working Group.

Thank you for your consideration.